

**NIMHD Science Education Initiative  
RFA-MD-11-004**

**Questions and Answers**

1. **Will the technical assistance workshop be available by videotape or recording, and will there be another one before the application due date?**

No, the technical assistance workshop was not videotaped or recorded. A second workshop is not planned.

2. **Was there anything in the workshop that was not in the FOA that I should be aware of?**

These Q&As and the posted handouts and PowerPoint presentations are intended to summarize the information provided at the technical assistance workshop.

3. **Is the award limit \$350,000 direct costs per year or is this the total over 5 years (\$70,000 direct costs per year)?**

\$350,000 per year. Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs requested by consortium participants are not included in the direct cost limitations. See [NOT-OD-05-004](#).

4. **What is the length of project term?**

The total project period for an application submitted in response to this FOA may not exceed five years.

5. **What are the pages limits for the sections of the applications and what is the correct link?**

See [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms\\_page\\_limits.htm#train](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms_page_limits.htm#train) . E.g., the research education program plan (uploaded via the Research Strategy) can be up to 25 pages.

6. **To apply for an NIMHD Science Education Initiative (R25) RFA-MD-11-004, must the PI already be NIH funded?**

No.

7. **Is there a grace period for me to correct errors in my application?**

No. See NIH Guide Notice NOT-OD-11-035, available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-od-11-035.html>.

8. **For the K-12 topic, would that just involve interesting health disparity students in science, and that no explicit health disparity focus would apply?**

The funding opportunity announcement states several goals for this initiative. For example, one goal is increasing/advancing student understanding and interest in science. Others include improving the knowledge and experience of STEM K-12 teachers and building productive

capacity in traditionally underrepresented groups that lack significant enrollments in science and STEM professional career areas.

9. **Do you have a format you would like to see the grant in? Will it follow an R01 format or a P type format?**

Follow the SF424 (R&R) Application guide with the modifications stated in the FOA. The non-modular budget format applies. The number of budgets/projects depends on the proposal, but the proposal must focus on only one of the core areas listed. The applicant institution must be the primary site for the program. The need for and use of multiple sites must be justified.

10. **Is there a letter of support limit?**

No.

11. **If we were a grantee would we have to begin the summer program this summer, or could we wait until summer 2012? Can there be some elements of a current grant summer program and another unfunded proposal incorporated into our proposal for this R25?**

The requested budget period should be consistent with the timeline for activities and expenditures. So a requested budget start date could be September 2011 for a 2012 summer program, for example.

This application can not duplicate other active pending applications. Submissions of identical applications to one or more components of the PHS are not allowed, and the NIH will **not** accept similar grant applications with essentially the same research focus from the same applicant organization. This includes derivative or multiple applications that propose to develop a single product, process or service that, with non-substantive modifications, can be applied to a variety of purposes. Likewise, identical or essentially identical grant applications submitted by different applicant organizations will not be accepted. Applicant organizations should ascertain and assure that the materials they are submitting on behalf of the PD/PI are the original work of the PD/PI and have not been used elsewhere in the preparation and submission of a similar grant application.

12. **It is my understanding that you cannot ask for funding for activities that you currently receive funding to provide. We have secured funds to host our youth initiative in June 2011, but this funding will end on June 30, 2011. Is this an issue if funding for this FOA does not begin until July 2011? Do we need to mention this in our application?**

There can be no scientific, budgetary, or commitment (effort level) overlap. The proposed research education program may complement ongoing research training and education occurring at the applicant institution, but the proposed educational experiences must be distinct from those research training and research education programs currently receiving Federal support. If Federal funding for current science education activities doesn't overlap with those proposed in the application, then it is acceptable.

13. **We would like to fund 2-4 Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) to assist with teaching and mentoring activities. The experience would constitute training for the GRAs. I wanted to make sure that the funding for GRAs would fall within the Other Direct Costs category and not key personnel.**

They would not be in the Other Direct Costs category if they are employees. If the applicant organization considers them Participants, they would be in the Participant/Trainee Support Costs section, which includes all allowable categories of funds requested to support participants in the program. If they are non-participant employees, they would be in the Other Personnel category.

Note: To be Participants, the GRAs would have to be a beneficiary of the science education activities not an individual providing service.

**14. Does the Key Personnel section of the budget include all key personnel or just the PD/PI(s)?**

Include all personnel other than the PD/PI(s) in the Other Personnel section, including clerical and administrative staff.

**15. Can a rural undergraduate liberal arts university partner with a major research university to provide biomedical research internships for the rural university's students at the major university, with mentoring by both universities? This greatly increases research and mentoring opportunities to a population of students who do not have such opportunities readily available.**

Yes.

**16. Can you further define "individuals from underrepresented or health disparity populations that are underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences..."? This is from "Section I. Funding Opportunity Description."**

The defined groups are: individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups; individuals with disabilities; and individuals from socially, culturally, economically, or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds that have inhibited their ability to pursue a career in health-related research. The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indian/Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders. Since it is recognized that underrepresentation can vary from setting to setting, other individuals from racial or ethnic groups that can be convincingly demonstrated to be underrepresented by the applicant institution are encouraged to participate in this program.

**17. We are serving students in a rural State that are spread across a wide geographic area. Our students are typically low income and most will be first generation college students. However, our State is not very ethnically diverse other than students from our Indian tribes. We do struggle to recruit and retain health professionals. Would these students be considered "individuals from health disparity populations that are underrepresented in the biomedical..."?**

Yes.

**18. If we proposed to support health disparity students to do research as undergraduates, would it be appropriate that they work in any area of biomedical science, or would they be competitive only if they were particularly focused on health disparities (e.g., planning a Ph.D. in this area or medical research in this area)?**

The intent of the Mentoring and Career Development Initiative core area is to enhance the educational and academic opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students interested in pursuing advanced degrees in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences. There is not a requirement that the focus only be on health disparities research.

19. **An applicant's submission must focus on only one of the research education program core areas?**

Yes.

20. **The RFA specifies that the Advisory Committee members should not be named in the application. I just wanted to be clear about this as I was planning to ask for letters of support from committee members and include the letters in the application. If the names are not to be included, my assumption is that letters of support also should not be included?**

The applicant institution can solicit letters of support from any appropriate individual or organization. However, letters of support from individuals that may be members of the proposed Advisory Committee should not identify themselves as such.

21. **Other than planning and evaluation, can the grant support activities at times other than during the summer as long as the proposal includes a summer component? For example, can it support classes during the fall and spring semesters, or our semi-regular fall trip to NIH, in addition to special summer program?**

Yes

22. **I'm interested in proposing a project for the K-12 Science Initiative. Who are the participants in such a project?**

K-12 students, teachers, or both may be participants in your proposed activities. The K-12 Science Initiative core area also allows public outreach activities that will educate students, teachers, and the community on health-related research topics.

23. **Can mentors come from NGOs or other organizations that are not Universities?**

Yes.

24. **Could travel funds be included for airfare for a mentee to have a practice field experience in the United States with the mentor, where the field experience relates directly to the mentor's research?**

Yes.

25. **The RFA states that the applicant institution must be the primary site for the program. What if the applicant institution is a small non-profit and the programs proposed are mentorship activities, conferences, and other activities which could not take place at the non-profit's office?**

The need for and use of multiple sites must be justified in the application.

26. **Do medical residents and fellows count as post doctoral fellows? How about graduate students who hold acceptance to a post doctoral training program?**

Any individual who has received the doctoral degree is considered a post-doctoral professional.

27. **By using the term "graduate students", would both Doctoral and Master's students be eligible to participate in the program?**

Yes

28. **Regarding established partnerships, which is the best approach to show this in our application? i.e. support letters?**

There are various ways to indicate previous partnerships including statements of fact, letters of support, etc. Indications of the length of the partnership and accomplishments of the partnership are helpful.

29. **Would submitting a one-year proposal be counter productive to meeting the requirement for a comprehensive and longitudinal capacity building component? Would it be considered as a fragmented and isolated effort?**

Not necessarily. Many aspects of the goals and objectives of the NIMHD Science Education Initiative could be accomplished within a one year timeframe. It depends on the scope and the clarity of purpose of the proposed application.

30. **What is meant by "...the R25 mechanism is not intended to support long-term research training..."? This statement appears in the paragraph immediately before "Section II. Award Information" in the RFA. How long is "long-term" for this RFA? Does this mean that support for Graduate Research Assistants at 20 hours per week for 24 months is not allowable?**

Participant support up to 20 hours per week for up to 12 months is allowable. The funding opportunity announcement says that "costs to support full-time participants (supported 40 hours/week for a continuous, 12-month period) are not allowable."

31. Can the application have a multiple PI?

Yes. [Multiple Principal Investigators: Overview](#)